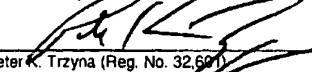


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed via facsimile with a confirmation copy being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Date: June 5, 2002

Signed: 
Peter K. Trzyna (Reg. No. 32,601)

PATENT

Paper No. 9

File: AIS-P99-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor	:	Daniel L. Marks
Serial No.	:	09/399,578
Filed	:	September 20, 1999
For	:	GROUP COMMUNICATIONS MULTIPLEXING SYSTEM
Group Art Unit	:	2765
Examiner	:	

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDED VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

S I R :

Set forth below is the amended version of the claims.

1. (Fourth Amendment) A method for using a computer system to [arbitrate and] distribute communication over [the] an Internet network, the method including the steps of:

connecting a plurality of participator computers with a controller computer through the Internet, each said participator computer connected to an input device to receive input information from a respective user and to an output device, each said user having a user identity;

programming the controller computer to control distributing the communication;

programming the participator computers to enable receiving the communication;

arbitrating with the controller computer, in accordance with predefined rules including a test for an authenticated user identity, to determine which one of the participator computers can receive the communication, including a [communication of] sound, a video, a graphic, a pointer-triggered [communication] message, or a combination thereof, wherein said arbitrating with said pointer-triggered [communication] message includes said controller computer using said pointer to fetch [a] pre-stored data [communication to the one of the participator computers]; and

distributing, in accordance with the predefined rules, the communication in real time over the Internet to the one of the participator computers.

160. (Once Amended) A method for using a computer system to distribute communication over an Internet network, the method including the steps of:

obtaining, for each of a plurality of participator computers, a respective user identity from a controller computer over the Internet network, each said participator computer connected to an input device to receive input information from a respective user and to an output device;

programming the participator computers to enable communication, including a [communication of] sound, a video, a graphic, a [URL] pointer-triggered message, or a combination thereof, wherein said pointer-triggered message includes said controller computer using said pointer to fetch pre-stored data, and wherein said communication is controlled by using said user identity;

connecting said participator computers to said Internet network;
 sending said communication from one of said computers; and
 distributing, in accordance with the predefined rules, said communication in
 real time over the Internet network to at least one of said participator computers.

165. (Twice Amended) A method for using a computer system to
 distribute communication over an Internet network, the method including the steps of:
 obtaining, for each of a plurality of participator computers, a respective user
 identity from a controller computer over the Internet network, each said participator
 computer connected to an input device to receive input information from a respective user
 and to an output device;

programming the participator computers to enable communication,
 including a [communication of] sound, a video, a graphic, a pointer-triggered
 [communication] message, or a combination thereof, wherein said [arbitrating with said]
 pointer-triggered [communication] message includes said controller computer using said
 pointer to fetch [a] pre-stored data [communication to the one of the participator
 computers, wherein said communication is controlled by said user identity];

connecting said participator computers to said Internet network;
 sending said communication from one of said computers; and
 distributing, in accordance with the predefined rules, said communication in
 real time over the Internet network to at least one of said participator computers.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with
 the above-identified patent application or credit any overcharges to Deposit Account No. 50-
 0235.


The application, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 240-0824 if it can in any way expedite or ease the handling of this case. Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

June 5, 2002

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